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# Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 01238 151833 Z

43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 063816
O 151730 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 896
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY
USDEL FRANCE PRIORITY UNN

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1238

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR, VN, NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH PLANS TO OPEN LINKS WITH NORTH VIET- NAM

REF: STATE 47702

1. IN VIEW OF UNENCOURAGING REACTION BY MFA FAR EASTERN DIRECTOR ROOKMAAKER TO EMBASSY' S APPROACH PER REFTEL ON MORNING OF MAR 15 ( REPORTED SEPTEL), I TELEPHONED FOREIGN MINISTER SCHMELZER SAME AFTERNOON TO MAKE CLEAR TO HIM IN EXPLICIT TERMS THE BASIS FOR URGENT US REQUEST TO DEFER OPENING OF GON RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIET- NAM.

2. RESPONDING, SCHMELZER SAID THAT ON MAR 12, IN A PRESS BRIEFING,
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HE HAD STATED THAT THE GON WOULD MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING VIET- NAM ON MARCH 16. HE SAID HE HAD CONSULTED WITH OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NINE ON THIS MATTER. WHILE THE ITALIANS HAD WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL MAR 19 TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCE- MENT, THE DUTCH HAD DECIDED TO GO AHEAD ON THE 16 TH ( I RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION FROM SCHMELZER THAT SOME OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS WOULD ALSO BE MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE 16 TH).

3. SCHMELZER SAID THAT HE HAD NOT HERETOFORE HAD ANY INFORMATION REGARDING " MASSIVE MOVEMENTS OF MEN AND SUPPLIES INTO SOUTH VIET- NAM" AND ASKED IF HE COULD NOT HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY I TOLD HIM WE WOULD ASK WASHINGTON TO GIVE US THE FACTS AND FIGURES LATER TODAY ( WITHIN A FEW HOURS). THIS INFORMATION FROM STATE WAS PASSED ON TO HIM TWO HOURS LATER.

4. SCHMELZER SAID GON' S PLANS REGARDING RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIET- NAM HAVE BEEN FULLY TREATED IN THE PRESS AS WELL AS IN PARLIAMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION DUTCH GOVERNMENT WANTS VERY MUCH TO AVOID RE- OPENING A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT. HE SAID GON MUST THEREFORE WEIGH THE ADVANTAGES OF BEGINNING LINKS WITH NVN AGAINST ANY DISADVANTAGES OF SUCH ACTION IN TERMS OF DUTCH RELATIONS WITH U. S.. SCHMELZER SAID HE PLANS TO ANNOUNCE TOMMOROW ( MAR 16), FOLLOWING THE EC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS, THAT GON IS IN PROCESS OF " BEGINNING OF LINKS" WITH NVN BUT THAT HE WOULD ANNOUNCE NOTHING REGARDING FULL RECOG- NITION OF NVN.

5. I THEN ASKED SCHMELZER IF HE WOULD CONSIDER POSTPONING HIS ANNOUNCEMENT. HE REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GON TO REVERSE ITS STEPS ON THIS SUBJECT ( THE HAGUE' S 1184, 679 AND 917) IN VIEW OF PRESS BUILD- UP AND INEVIT- ABILITY OF CRITICAL PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS IF GON DID NOT MAKE SCHEDULED ANNOUNCEMENT ON MAR 16. HE REITERATED THAT PRESENT CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IN POSITION TO FACE RENEWED PARLIA- MENTARY CHALLENGE REGARDING RELATIONS WITH NVN.

6. I THEN ASKED SCHMELZER IF HE WOULD CONSIDER ADDING TO HIS ANNOUNCEMENT PROVISION THAT OPENING OF LINKS WITH NVN WOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON THE ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT TRUCE VIOLATIONS BY THE NVN; IN THE PRESENCE OF SUCH VIOLATIONS GON WOULD RESERVE





ITS RIGHT TO POSTPONE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FORMAL LINKAGE WITH

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NVN. SCHMELZER SAID HE WOULD GIVE THIS SUGGESTION SERIOUS CONSID-
ERATION, INDICATING THAT PROMPT INFORMATION FROM US OF SPECIFICS
OF " MASSIVE" MOVEMENT OF TROOPS AND SUPPLIES WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL
TO HIM IN THIS REGARD.

7. IN CLOSING I TOLD SCHMELZER WE HAD A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR
KEEPING EMBASSY' S APPROACHES PRIVATE. HE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING
BUT SAID THAT WHOLE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH NVN WAS IN PUBLIC
DOMAIN. IT MIGHT NOT BE FEASIBLE THEREFORE TO KEEP MY APPROACH
FROM BECOMING PUBLIC. HE ADDED THAT GON WOULD CONSULT FURTHER
WITH ITS EC PARTNERS TODAY.

8. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MY CONVERSATION WITH SCHMELZER, EMBASSY
REQUESTED AND PROMPTLY RECEIVED VIA TELEPHONE FROM THE DEPARTMENT
SPECIFICS ON MOVEMENT OF MEN AND SUPPLIES INTO SOUTH VIET- NAM.
THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT TO FONOFF FOR SCHMELZER' S
PERSONAL ATTENTION.
MIDDENDORF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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**Draft Date:** 15 MAR 1973
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**TAGS:** MARR, NL, NATO
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC
SS INFO ANKARA
ATHENS
BONN
MULTIPLE
**Type:** TE
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